

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

Plaintiff Northwest Administrators, Inc. moves the Court for summary judgment against defendant Fred Hill Materials, Inc. (Dkts. 7 & 8.) This matter was brought pursuant to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, 29 U.S.C. § 1001, et seq. (“ERISA”). Defendant is bound by a collective bargaining agreement with Local 589 of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, which requires defendant to pay monthly contributions to the Western Conference of Teamsters Pension Trust Fund (hereinafter “Trust”) for eligible employees. (*See* Dkt. 9, Ex. A.) Defendant also signed an Agreement and Declaration of Trust containing terms as to damages owed as a result of any delinquent contributions, as well

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MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT
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01 as attorneys' fees and costs. (*Id.*, Ex. B.) Plaintiff is the authorized administrative agent for
02 and assignee of the Trust and seeks delinquent contributions to the Trust, as well as associated
03 damages, attorneys' fees, and costs for the period from January 2009 through March 2009.
04 Plaintiff attaches remittance reports from defendant for the months in question and a
05 spreadsheet showing the amounts of contributions owed, their due dates, and calculations of
06 liquidated damages, interest, attorneys' fees, and costs. (*Id.*, Exs. C & D.)

07 In its answer to plaintiff's complaint, defendant acknowledged that it was a party to the
08 above-described agreements, admitted that it failed to report for and pay some, but not all, of
09 the relief requested, admitted that its records contained detailed information necessary to
10 determine the extent of its unpaid allegations to plaintiff, but otherwise denied plaintiff's
11 allegations. (Dkt. 5.) Defendant did not oppose plaintiff's motion for summary judgment.
12 The Court deems defendant's failure to oppose to be an admission that plaintiff's motion has
13 merit. *See* Local Civil Rule 7(b)(2). The Court also, for the reasons described below, finds
14 plaintiff entitled to summary judgment.

15 Summary judgment is appropriate when "the pleadings, depositions, answers to
16 interrogatories, and admissions on file, together with the affidavits, if any, show that there is no
17 genuine issue as to any material fact and that the moving party is entitled to a judgment as a
18 matter of law." Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(c); *Celotex Corp. v. Catrett*, 477 U.S. 317, 322 (1986).
19 The moving party is entitled to judgment as a matter of law when the nonmoving party fails to
20 make a sufficient showing on an essential element of his case with respect to which he has the
21 burden of proof. *See Celotex*, 477 U.S. at 322-23.

22 ERISA obligates participating employers to make contributions to a multi-employer

01 trust fund in accordance with the contract and trust agreement. *See* ERISA Section 515, 29
02 U.S.C. § 1145. ERISA also provides specific mandatory remedies for delinquent
03 contributions, including, in addition to the unpaid contributions, liquidated damages, interest,
04 attorney's fees, and costs. *See* 29 U.S.C. § 1132(g)(2). As noted, defendant also signed an
05 Agreement and Declaration of Trust containing terms as to damages owed as a result of
06 delinquent contributions.

07 In this case, using defendant's remittance reports, plaintiff calculates total contributions
08 owed in the amount of \$143,101.43 for the period of January 2009 through March 2009. (*See*
09 Dkt. 9, ¶ 11 and Exs. C & D.) Plaintiff further calculates that defendant is obligated to pay
10 liquidated damages in the amount of \$28,620.29, pre-judgment interest, as of April 20, 2009, in
11 the amount of \$801.72, \$404.85 in attorneys' fees, and \$455.10 in costs. (*Id.*, ¶ 13 and Exs. C
12 & D; Dkt. 10, ¶¶ 2, 5 and Ex. A.)

13 The Court finds no issues of fact regarding either the enforceability of the collective
14 bargaining and trust agreements at issue in this case or plaintiff's entitlement to the total amount
15 of delinquent contributions, liquidated damages, interest, attorneys' fees, and costs sought.
16 Accordingly, the Court finds summary judgment appropriate.

17 For the reasons described above, plaintiff's motion for summary judgment is hereby
18 GRANTED and plaintiff awarded a total of \$143,101.43 in delinquent contributions for the
19 period from January 2009 through March 2009. Plaintiff is also entitled to liquidated
20 damages, interest, attorneys' fees, and costs, as outlined above. However, because plaintiff
21 calculated the amounts described above as of April 20, 2009, a revised accounting may now be
22 in order. Accordingly, plaintiff shall submit such information within **ten (10) days** of the date

01 of this Order.

02 DATED this 29th day of June, 2009.

03
04 s/ Mary Alice Theiler
United States Magistrate Judge